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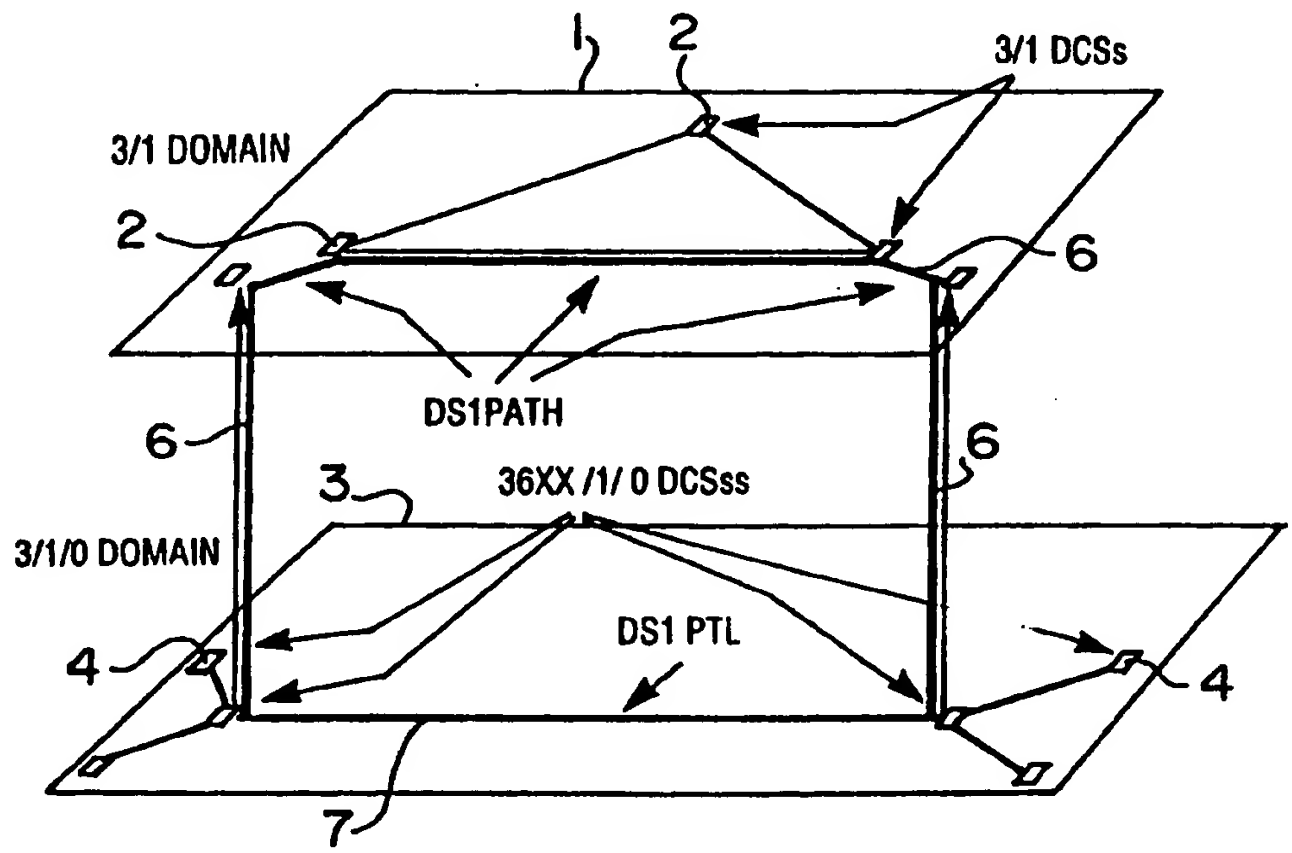

(57) Abstract

An integrated network management system for multiple networks of different technology domains employs hierarchical pass-through routing and multi-network service management through the network.

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INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF MULTIPLE NETWORKS WITH DIFFERENT TOPOLOGIES

This invention relates to the integrated management of multiple networks of different technologies, and in particular through hierarchical pass-through routing and multi-network service management.

Newbridge Networks Corporation's 4602/46020 MainStreet® Intelligent NetworkStation provides fully integrated network management of Newbridge's LAN, 36xx Time Division Multiplexing (TDM), Frame Relay, and Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) products, with a rich Graphical User Interface (GUI) showing network topology and network element drawings, real-time status monitoring and fault management, and full path (service) management and service recovery capabilities.

In many networks however, the network is not a homogeneous Newbridge network. Here, the Newbridge network is overlayed onto a backbone network, which is typically composed of non-Newbridge higher order bandwidth equipment. Without integrated management of the backbone network(s), the operators of the network (typically telcos) cannot efficiently manage the entire network and service recovery around backbone network failures requires manual human intervention. Turnaround times to recover from network failures may be very long.

Accordingly the present invention provides an integrated network management system for multiple networks of different technology domains comprising at least one network manager, characterized in that said network manager manages the multiple networks and establishes links within a technology domain by implementing hierarchical pass-through routing of other domains in the network.

Integrated network management of multiple networks of different technologies using Hierarchical Pass-Through Routing and Multi-Network Service Management provides a much more efficient means of management and service recovery.

Thus in accordance with the invention hierarchical Pass-Through Routing and Multi-Network Service Management are combined to provide integrated management of multiple network of different technologies with a rich Graphical User Interface (GUI) showing network topology and network element drawings, real-time status monitoring and fault management, and full path (service) management and service recovery capabilities.

The invention also provides a method of managing multiple networks of different technology domains with at least one network manager, characterized in that links within a technology domain are established by implementing hierarchical pass-through routing of other domains in the network.

The invention will now be described in more detail, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 shows 3/1 and 3/1/0 domain networks;

Figure 2 shows 3/3 and 3/1 domain networks;

Figure 3 shows 3/3, 3/1, and 3/1/0 domain networks;

Figure 4 shows 3/3 and 3/1 domain networks;

Figure 5 shows SONET and 3/1/0 domain networks;

Figure 6 shows Hierarchical Management applied to the Newbridge 46020 network management system;

Figure 7 shows Multiple 46020 Hierarchical Management;

Figure 8 shows Multiple 3/1/0 Networks;

Figure 9 shows 3/1 Transport for Multiple 3/1/0 Networks;

Figure 10 shows Multiple 3/1/0 NetworksService Management View;

Figure 11 shows Multiple 3/1/0 Network Path Routing;

Figure 12 shows Multiple 3/1/0 Network Path Segments;

Figure 13 shows Multiple 3/1/0 Network Management;

Figure 14 shows Hierarchical and Multiple 3/1/0 Network Management;

Figure 15 shows Hierarchical and Multiple 3/3 Network Management; and

Figure 16 shows Integrated Hierarchical and Multiple Network Management.

Hierarchical Pass-Through can be used to integrate the management of 3/3, 3/1, and 1/0 Digital Cross-Connect Switches (DCS) with Newbridge products from Newbridge's 46020 network management system. A 3/3 digital cross-connect switch (DCS) terminates interfaces and switches at the DS3 level, a 3/1 DCS terminates interfaces and switches at the DS1 level, while a 3/1/0 DCS terminates interfaces and switches at the DS0 level, a DS0 link being at 64 kbits/sec, a DS1 link being at 1.544 Mb/sec, and a DS3 link being at 44.736 Mbits/sec, as is well known in the art.

Examples of non-Newbridge DCSs that may be managed by the 46020 include.

- Tadiran's T::DAX and T::DAX100 (3/1)
- AT&T's DACS II (1/0)
- DSC's DEX CS1L (1/0)
- AT&T's DACS III (3/3), and DACS IV (3/1)
- Alcatel's 1631SX (3/1) and 1633SX (3/3)

Referring now to Figure 1, this shows a 3/1 domain 1 having a plurality of 3/1 digital cross connects switches (DCs) 2, and a 3/1/0 domain 3 of 3/1/0 Dcs 4, which are Newbridge Networks Corp. 36XX equipment for example, Mainstreet® 3600 bandwidth managers.

The network is managed by Newbridge Networks Corp. 46020 Mainstreet® network manager running on, for example, a Sun workstation, as will be described in more detail below.

In the 3/1/0 domain 3, the DS1 links between DCs are in many cases, DS1 paths 6 routed through another domain 1, which is, for example, an inter-office network. These links are considered Pass-Through Links (PTL), which appear as DS1 cables 7 in the 3/1/0 domain view and as DS1 paths 6 in the 3/1 domain view.

The integrated management of both the 3/1/0 and 3/1 networks from the 46020 network manager provides for optimized fault management and service recovery in the above system. In the event of a failure of DS1 PTL 7, recovery actions are first taken in the 3/1 network 1, i.e. by rerouting the DS1 path. If the DS1 PTL 7 cannot be rerouted, then recovery actions are taken in the 3/1/0 network, i.e. by rerouting the DS0 paths riding the DS PTL. Without integrated management of the 3/1/0 and 3/1 networks, failures in the 3/1 backbone network 1 might not be detected by the network management system for the 3/1/0 network 3.

In a 3/1 network of 3/1 DCSs (such as Tadiran's T..DAX, AT&T's DACS IV and Alcatel's 1631 SX), as shown in Figure 2, the DS3 links are typically DS3 paths 8 routed through a "backbone" 10 of 3/3 equipment including 3/3 DCs 11. These links are considered Pass-Through Links, which appear as DS3 cables 12 in the 3/1 domain view and as the DS3 paths 8 in the 3/3 domain view.

The integrated management of the both the 3/1 and 3/3 networks from the 46020 provides for optimized service recovery. In the event of a DS3 PTL failure, recovery actions are first taken in the 3/3 network (DS3 path 8 is rerouted). If the DS3 path cannot be rerouted, then recovery actions are taken in the 3/1 network (DS1 paths riding the DS PTL are rerouted).

These technology domain planes allow the 46020 network manager to view and manage 3/1/0, 3/1, and 3/3 networks as distinct and separate networks, while at the same time, providing integration of these domains (see Figure 3). This hierarchical management provides for the most efficient service recovery, with recovery actions starting at the highest-order bandwidth domain.

The 3/1/0 domain 3 may have a DS3 link that is a DS3 path 18 switched in the 3/3 domain, thereby bypassing the 3/1 network. This arrangement is illustrated in Figure 4.

The concept of Hierarchical Pass-Through Routing can also be extended to provide integrated management of SONET ADM equipment. This is shown in Figure 5, where a SONET ring 20 in SONET domain 25 provides DS1 transport for a 3/1/0 domain 3. In Figure 5, DS1 paths 21 provide the DS1 links for the 3/1/0 domain 3.

This Hierarchical Pass-Through Routing management of SONET ADM equipment can also be used where a SONET ring provides DS1/DS3/OC-n transport for the ATM technology domain.

The integrated management of different technology domains can be accomplished through the same 46020 which is managing the Newbridge network elements (see Figure 6). In this mode, the different domain networks 1, 3, 10 can be represented as separate views on a graphical user

interface (GUI). The domains are managed by a 46020 network manager, for example, running on Sun workstation 30 connected to the domains via links 31 and associated with database 32.

Alternatively, the integrated management of the different technology domains can be achieved using multiple 46020s 30, (i.e., one for each of the SONET, 3/3, 3/1, asynchronous, and Newbridge networks) connected to the respective domains via links 31. This is shown in Figure 7. In this mode, information is shared via links 33 between the 46020s to correlate the state of services in one network which provide transport facilities in another.

For scalability and/or administrative purposes, where there may be multiple networks of the same technology domain, each managed by a dedicated 46020 network manager. Service provisioning across multiple networks of the same technology domain is achieved using the concept of Multi-Network Service Management.

An example of inter-connected 3/1/0 networks is shown in Figure 8.

The inter-network links (i.e., DS1 links) between the 3/1/0 networks are routed through a 3/1 domain network (as DS1 Pass-Through Links), as shown in Figure 9. The internetwork pass-through links 60, 61 are routed through the 3/1 domain 1 as DS1 paths 63, 64.

From the perspective of the Multi-Network Service Manager for the 3/1/0 domain 3, the networks may be represented as "network" elements which are inter-connected by network links. The path-ends of a network (which are located on many different network elements in the network) are viewed as path-ends on the network element

representing the network. The inter-network links appear as links between the network elements 70, 71 in this service management view (see Figure 10).

Service provisioning across networks is performed from the Multi-Network Service Management view. This is shown in Figure 11, where the "network" elements are represented as nodes through which "cross-connections" are chosen in the path route.

These cross-connection commands are sent to the 4602 network managers that manage the individual networks as "path" requests between the path-ends of the networks to the timeslots of the terminating ports of the inter-network links, as shown in Figure 12.

The route chosen for the multi-network path is based on.

- the costs of the inter-network links (assigned values in the Multi-Network Service Manager database)
- the fixed costs for establishing cross-connections (paths) through the individual networks - the costs are assigned values in the Multi-Network Service Manager database

The mechanisms for route selection, prioritized service recovery using dynamic automatic alternate re-routing (AAR) when a failure in the network affects services, and service recovery when network repairs are based on existing 46020 bandwidth allocation functionality.

From a management perspective, the 46020-based Multi-Network Service Manager 33 is a separate from the individual 46020s 30 which control the individual 3/1/0 networks as shown in Figure 13.

The Multi-Network Service Manager can manage multiple networks of the same technology domain to provide the

same routing capability for multiple 3/1 networks, 3/3 networks, SONET networks, etc.

The combination of the 46020 Hierarchical Pass-Through Routing and Multi-Network Service Management concepts in the following architecture provides integrated management of multiple networks of different technology domains.

Figure 14 shows an example of a Multi-Network Service Manager 33 managing multiple 3/1/0 networks 3. A Multi-Network Service Manager is used at each technology domain wherever management of multiple networks is required. An example of a Multi-Network Service Manager 33 managing multiple 3/3 networks is shown in Figure 15.

Multi-Network Service Managers 33 for different technology domains may be used in conjunction (i.e., 3/3 and 3/1/0 Multi-Network Service Managers), as shown in Figure 16.

When Multi-Network Service Managers are used in conjunction with the Hierarchical Pass-Through Routing 4602s in an architecture as described above, the service requests are routed directly to the appropriate 46020 (for services within a network) or to the appropriate Multi-Network Service Manager (for services across domains).

Glossary

AAR	Automatic Adaptive Routing. The term used to describe the dynamic operation of A/B protection switching.
ATM	Asynchronous Transfer Mode.
BWA	Bandwidth Allocator. Software process that runs on the 4602/46020 that determines the optimum path for a circuit

and handles the re-routing of paths in the case of a network failure.

DACS Digital Access and Cross-Connect System.

DCS Digital Cross-Connect System.

DS Digital Signal. Digital facilities that carry 24 (DS1), 96 (DS2), or 672 (DS3) simultaneous voice or voiceband data channels, each operating at 64 kbps (DS0).

PTL Pass-Through Link.

PTR Pass-Through Routing.

SONET Synchronous Optical Network.

STS Synchronous Transport Signal.

TDM Time Division Multiplexing.

VT Virtual Tributary.

Claims

1. An integrated network management system for multiple networks of different technology domains comprising at least one network manager, characterized in that said network manager manages the multiple networks and establishes links within a technology domain by implementing hierarchical pass-through routing of other domains in the network.

2. An integrated network management system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a link between nodes in one said technology domain is established as a path routed through a higher order domain.

3. An integrated network management system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said higher order domain is a SONET domain.

4. An integrated network management system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least two of said domains have the same order in the hierarchy and are connected together by internetwork links, said internetwork links being provided by paths routed through a higher order domain.

5. An integrated network management system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a plurality of interconnected network managers associated with said respective domains.

6. An integrated network management system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a graphical user interface for showing network topology and network elements.

7. An integrated network management system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said network manager implements real-time status monitoring and fault

management, and full path (service) management and service recovery capabilities across the multiple networks.

8. A method of managing multiple networks of different technology domains with at least one network manager, characterized in that links within a technology domain are established by implementing hierarchical pass-through routing of other domains in the network.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that to establish a link between nodes in one said technology domain, a path is routed through a higher order domain.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that said higher order domain is a SONET domain.

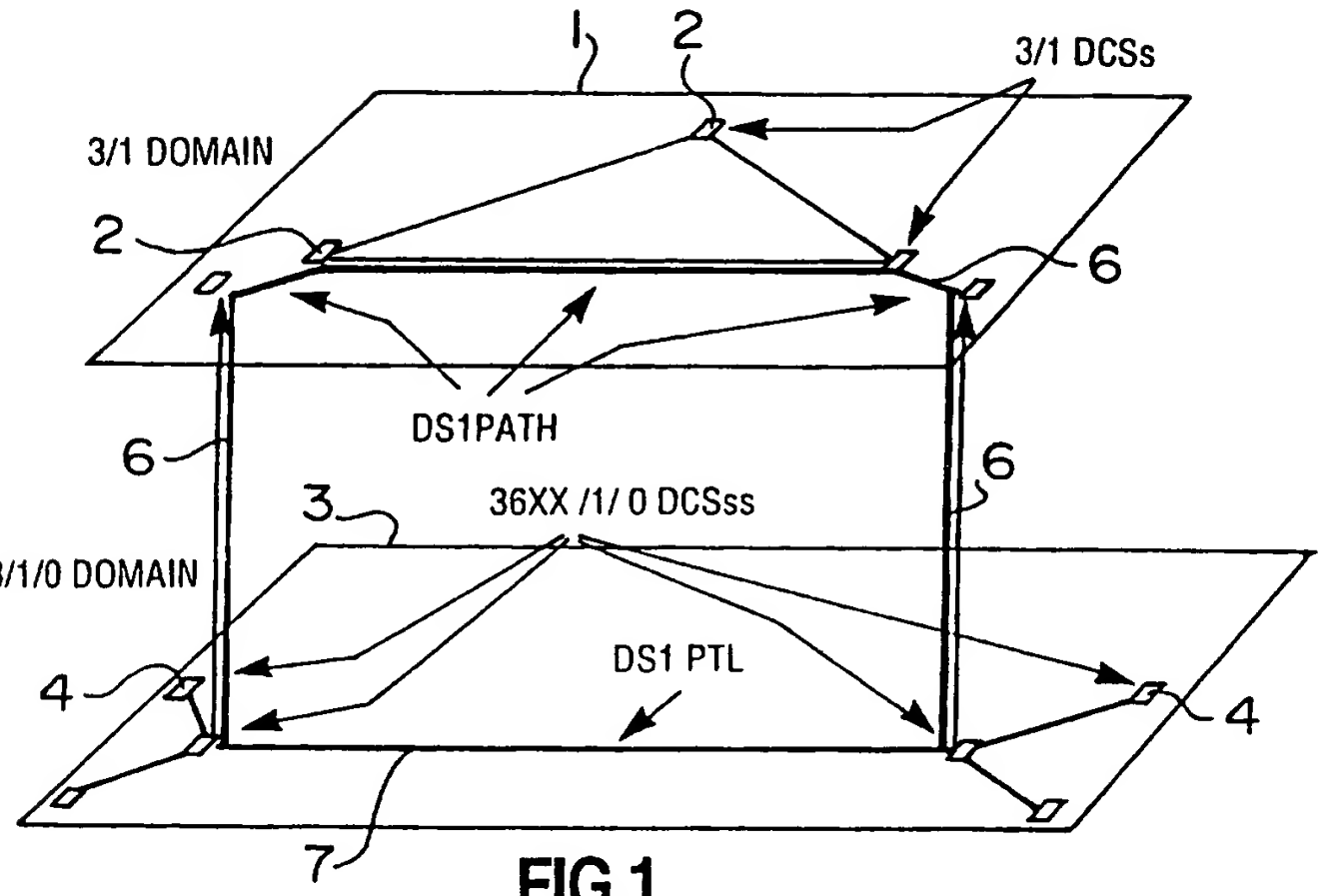
1
2
3/1 DCSs
3/1 DOMAIN
2
6
DS1PATH
6
6
3
36XX /1/ 0 DCSss
3/1/0 DOMAIN
DS1 PTL
4
4
7

FIG.1

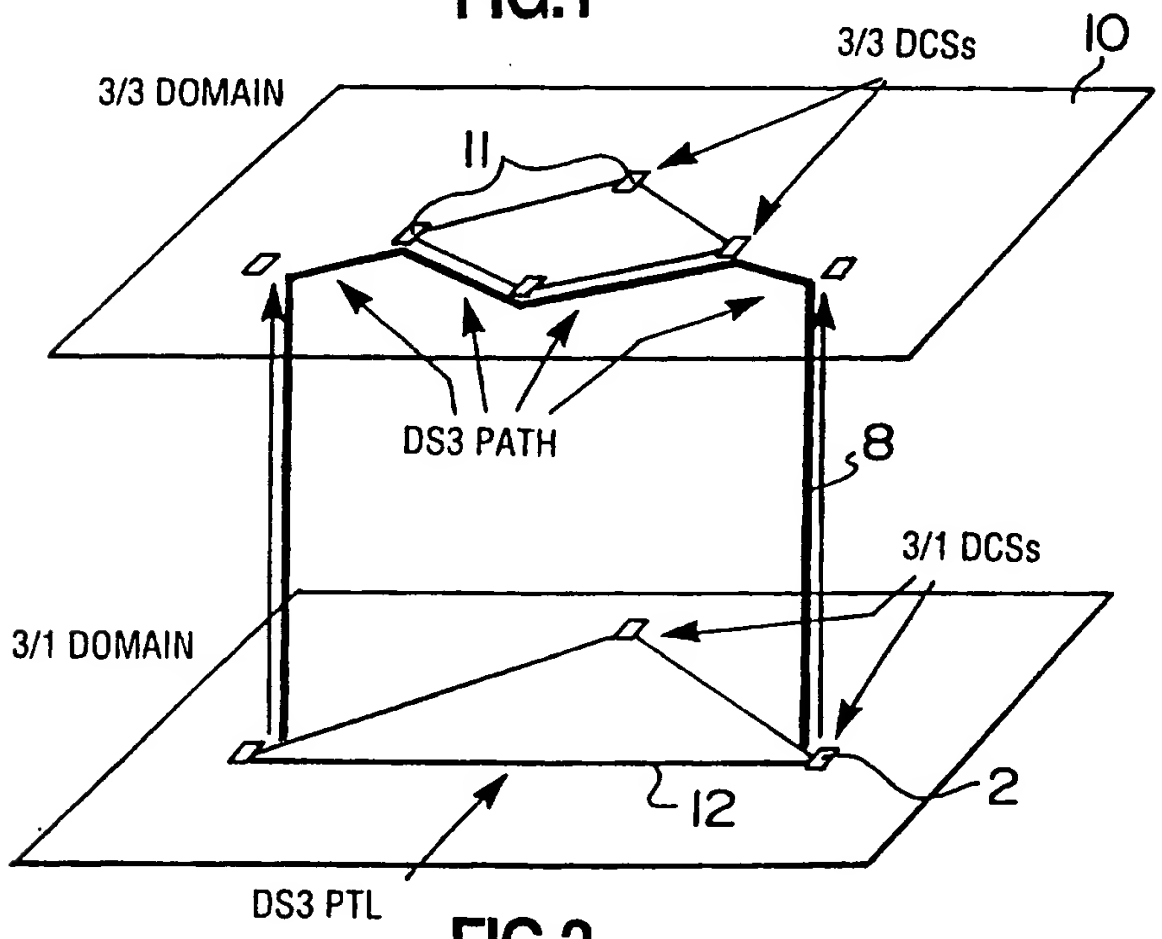
3/3 DCSs
10
3/3 DOMAIN
11
DS3 PATH
8
3/1 DCSs
3/1 DOMAIN
12
2
DS3 PTL

FIG.2

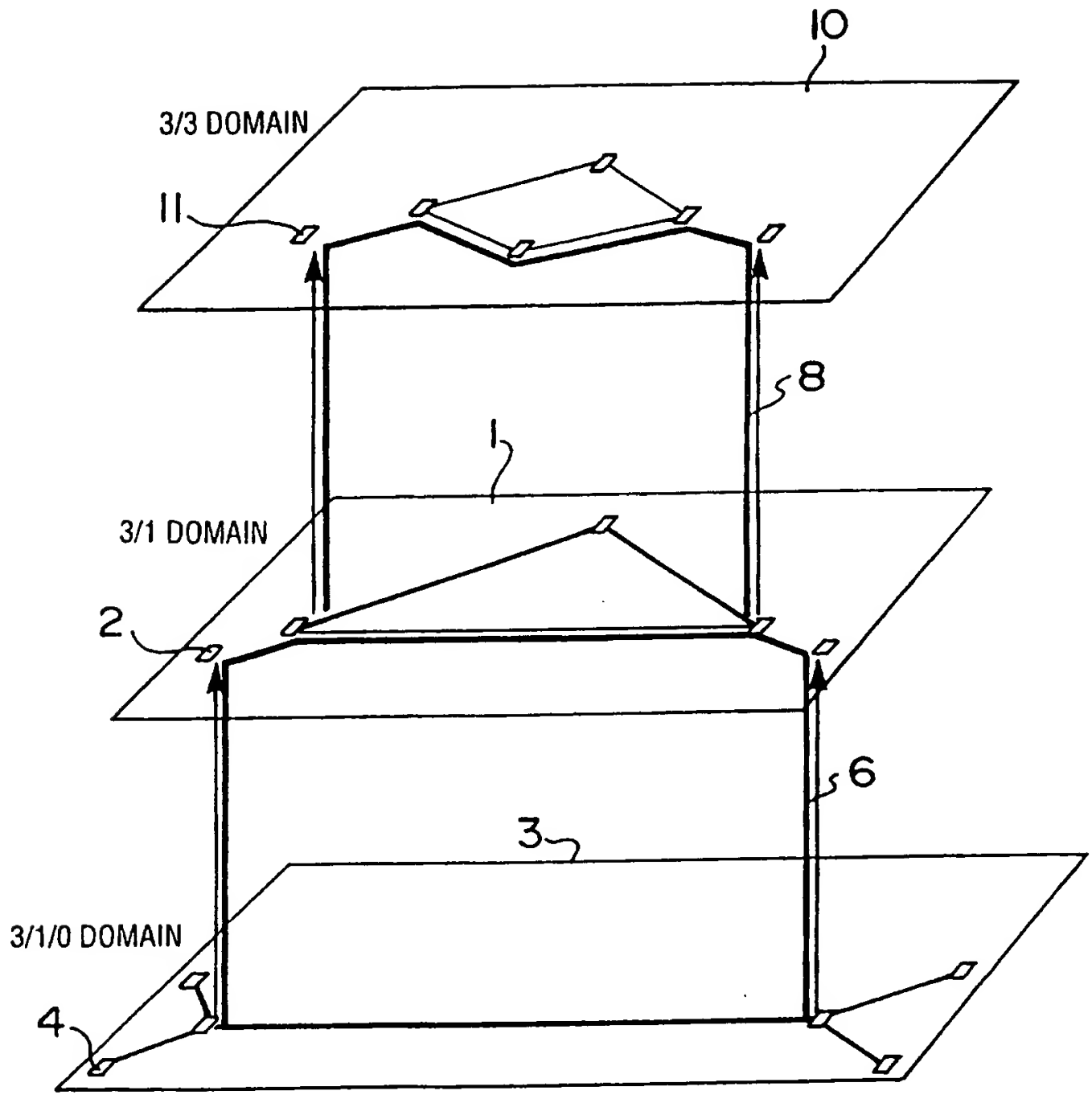

FIG.3

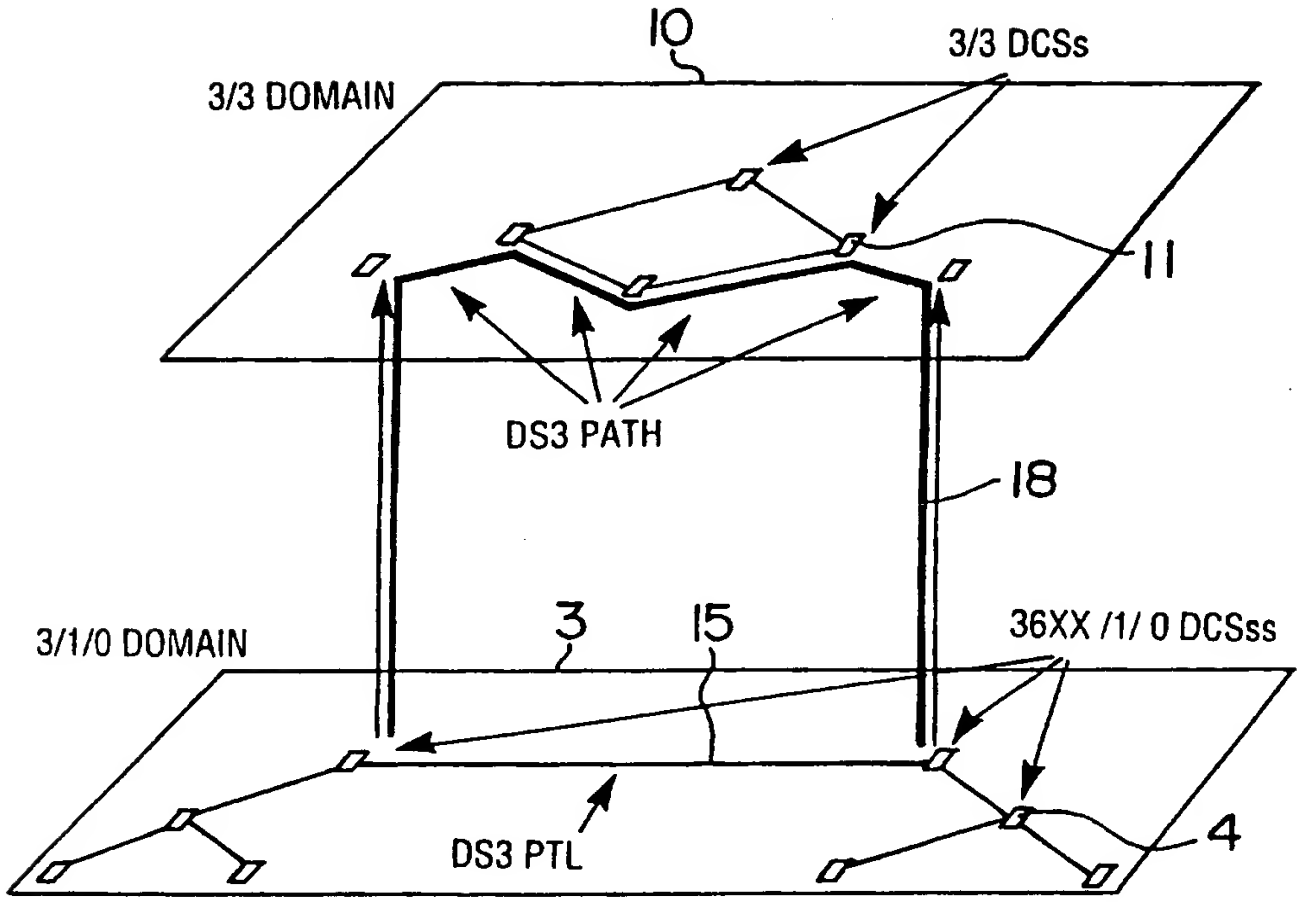
10
3/3 DCSs
3/3 DOMAIN
11
DS3 PATH
18
3/1/0 DOMAIN
3
15
36XX /1/ 0 DCSss
DS3 PTL
4

FIG.4

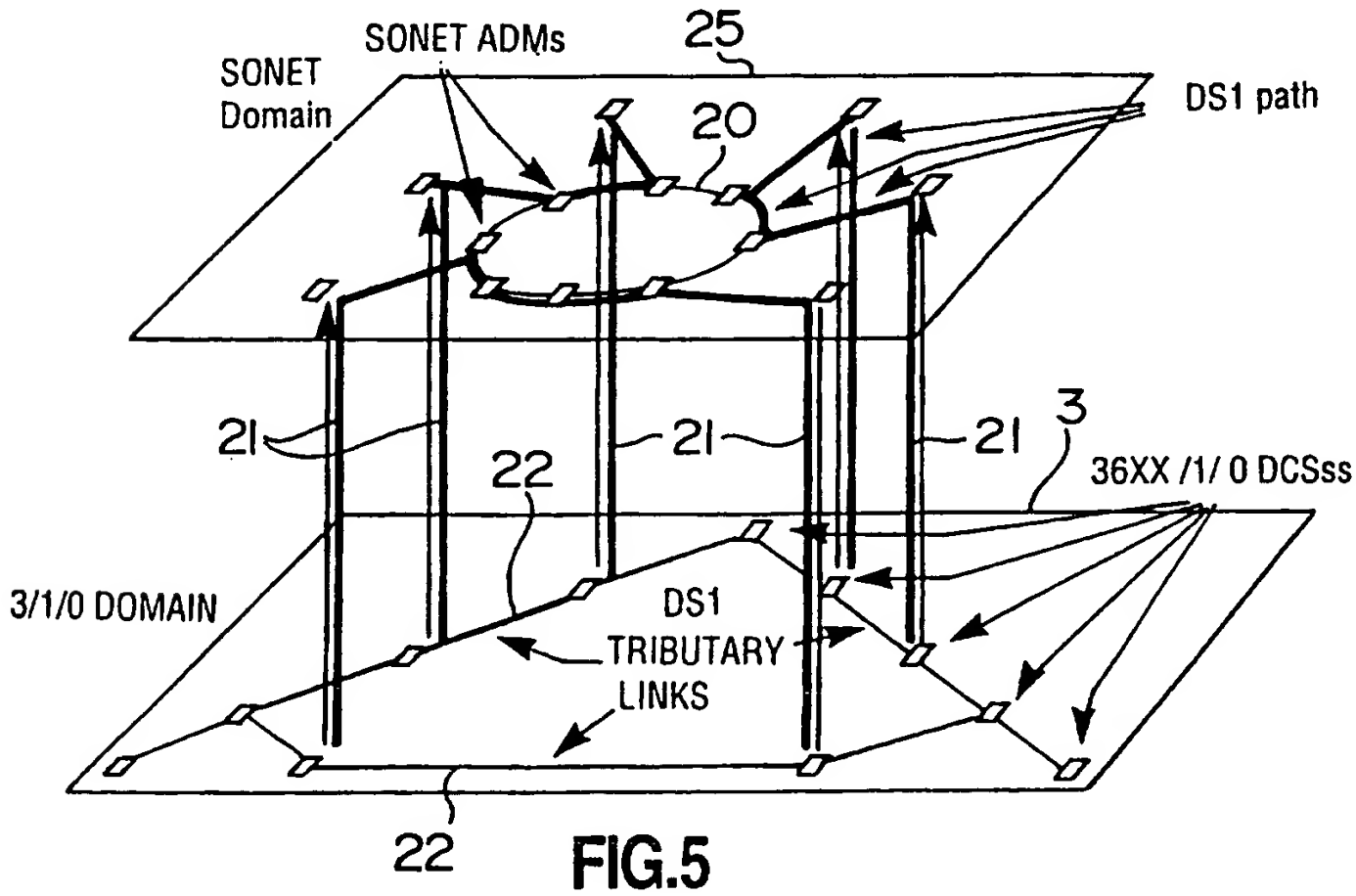
SONET ADMs
25
SONET
Domain
DS1 path
20
21
21
21
3
36XX /1/ 0 DCSss
22
3/1/0 DOMAIN
DS1
TRIBUTARY
LINKS
22

FIG.5

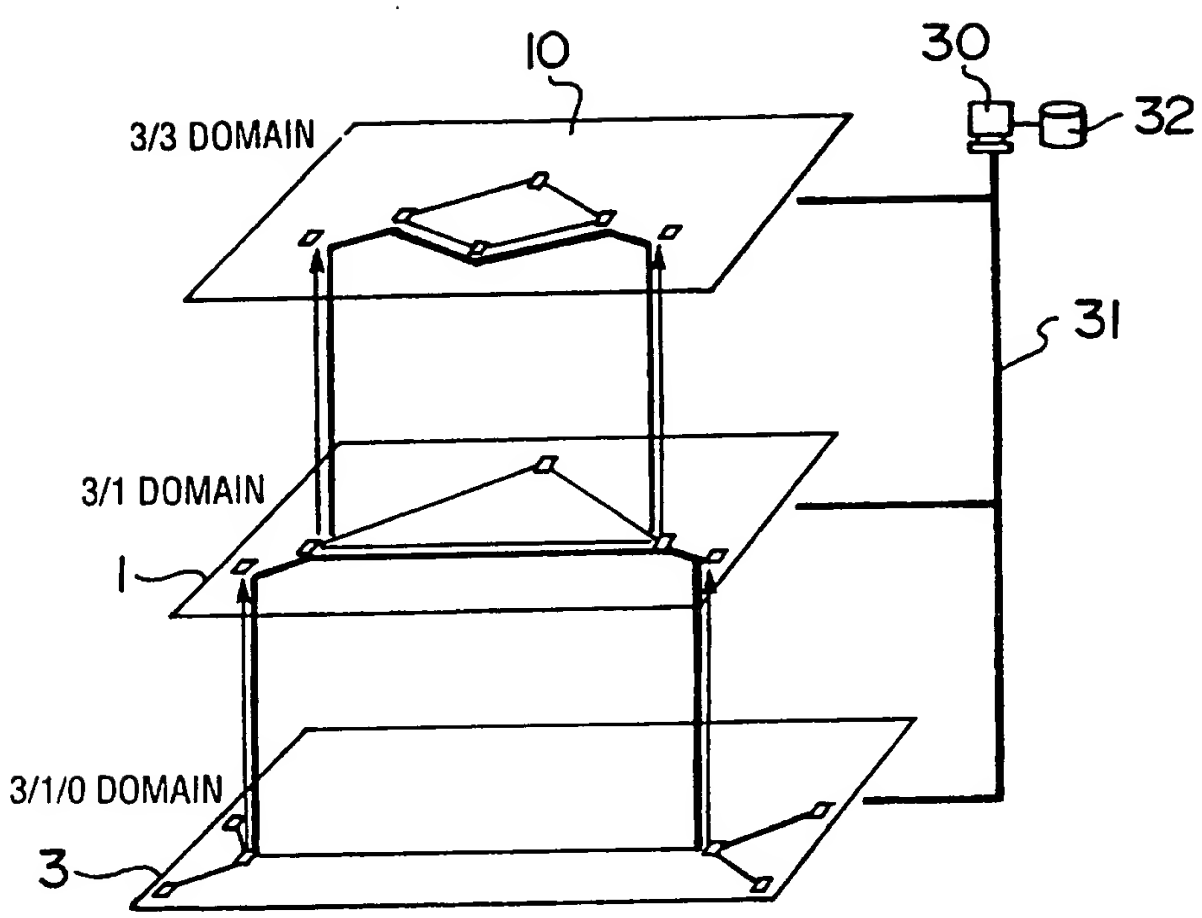
10
30
32
3/3 DOMAIN
31
3/1 DOMAIN
1
3/1/0 DOMAIN
3

FIG.6

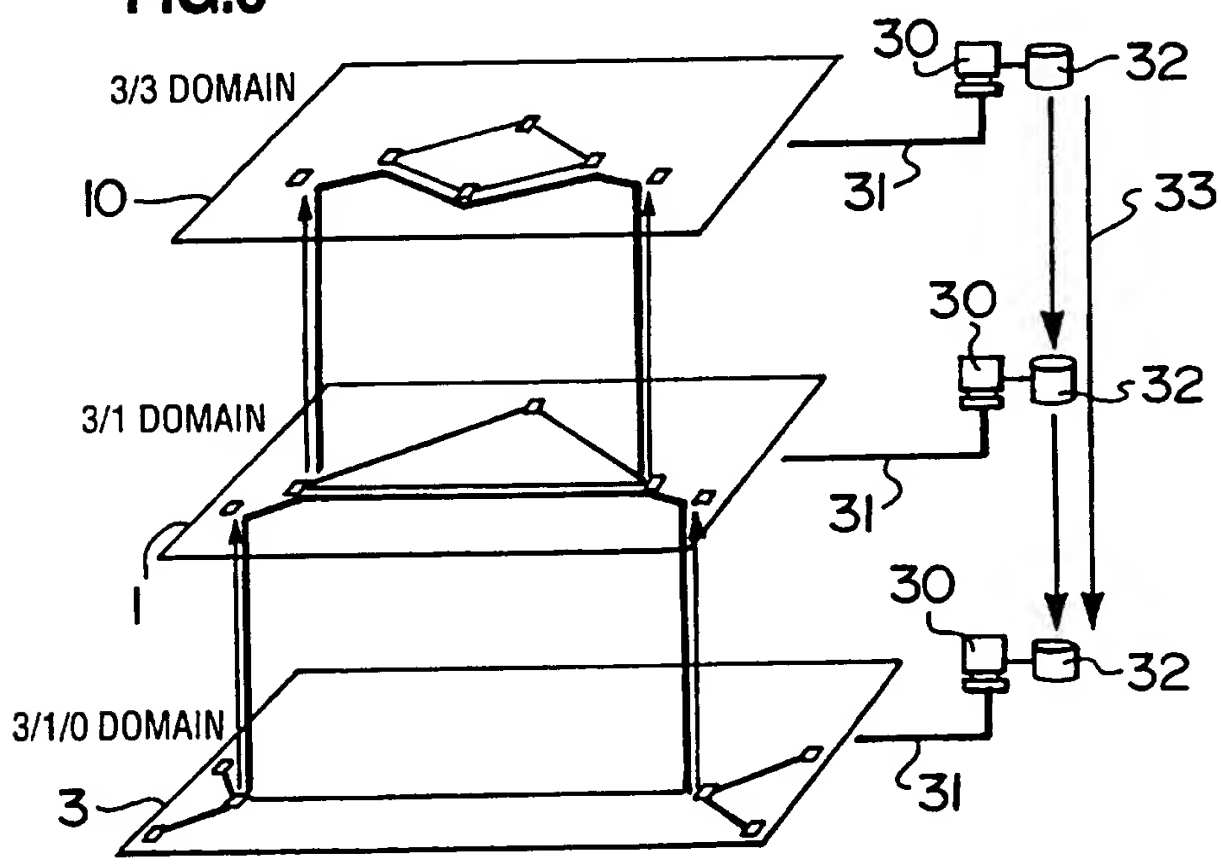
30
32
3/3 DOMAIN
10
31
33
30
3/1 DOMAIN
32
31
1
30
32
3/1/0 DOMAIN
3
31

FIG.7

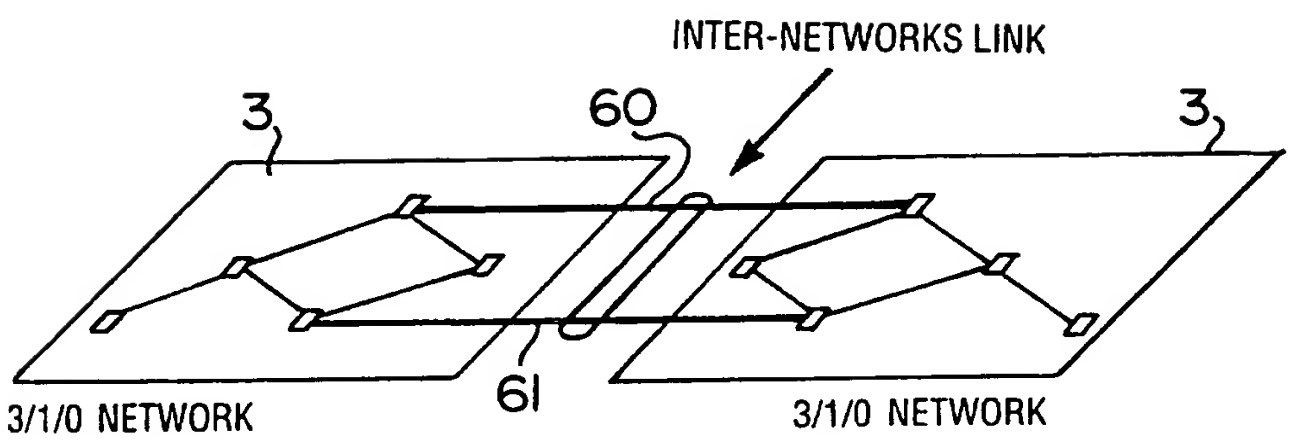
INTER-NETWORKS LINK
3
60
3
61
3/1/0 NETWORK
3/1/0 NETWORK

FIG.8

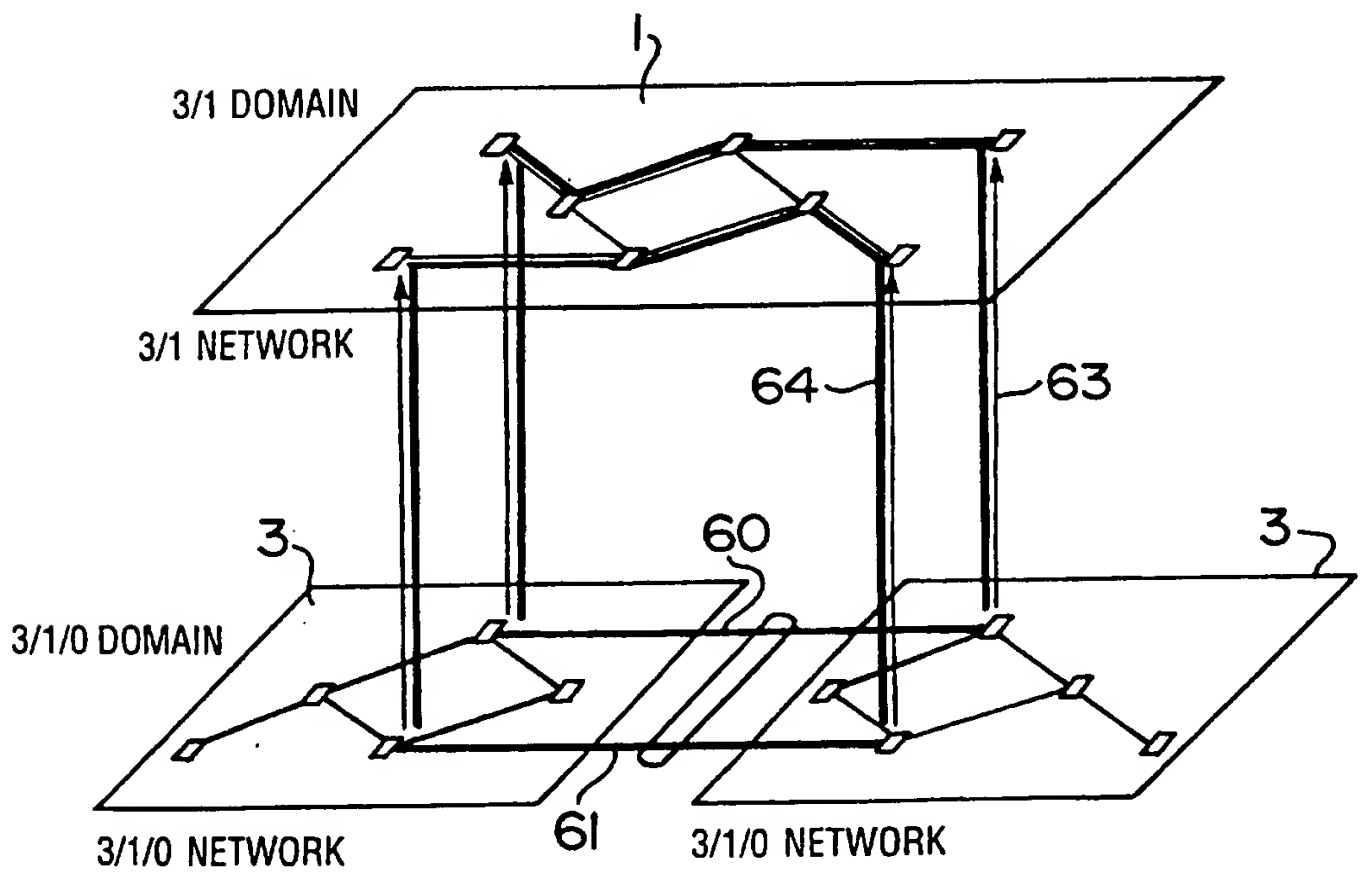
1
3/1 DOMAIN
3/1 NETWORK
64
63
3
60
3
3/1/0 DOMAIN
61
3/1/0 NETWORK
3/1/0 NETWORK

FIG.9

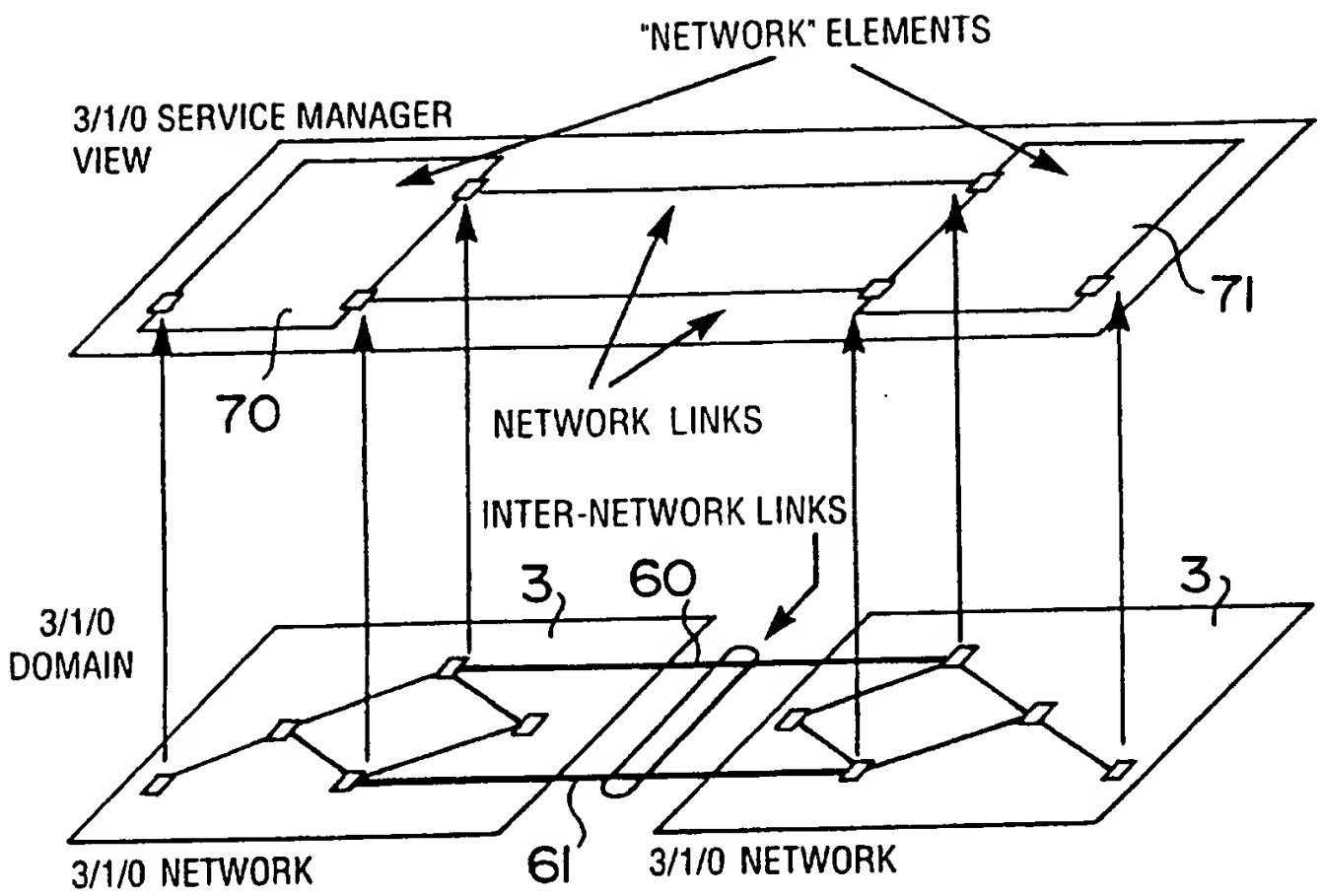
"NETWORK" ELEMENTS
3/1/0 SERVICE MANAGER VIEW
71
70
NETWORK LINKS
INTER-NETWORK LINKS
3
60
3
3/1/0 DOMAIN
3/1/0 NETWORK
61
3/1/0 NETWORK

FIG.10

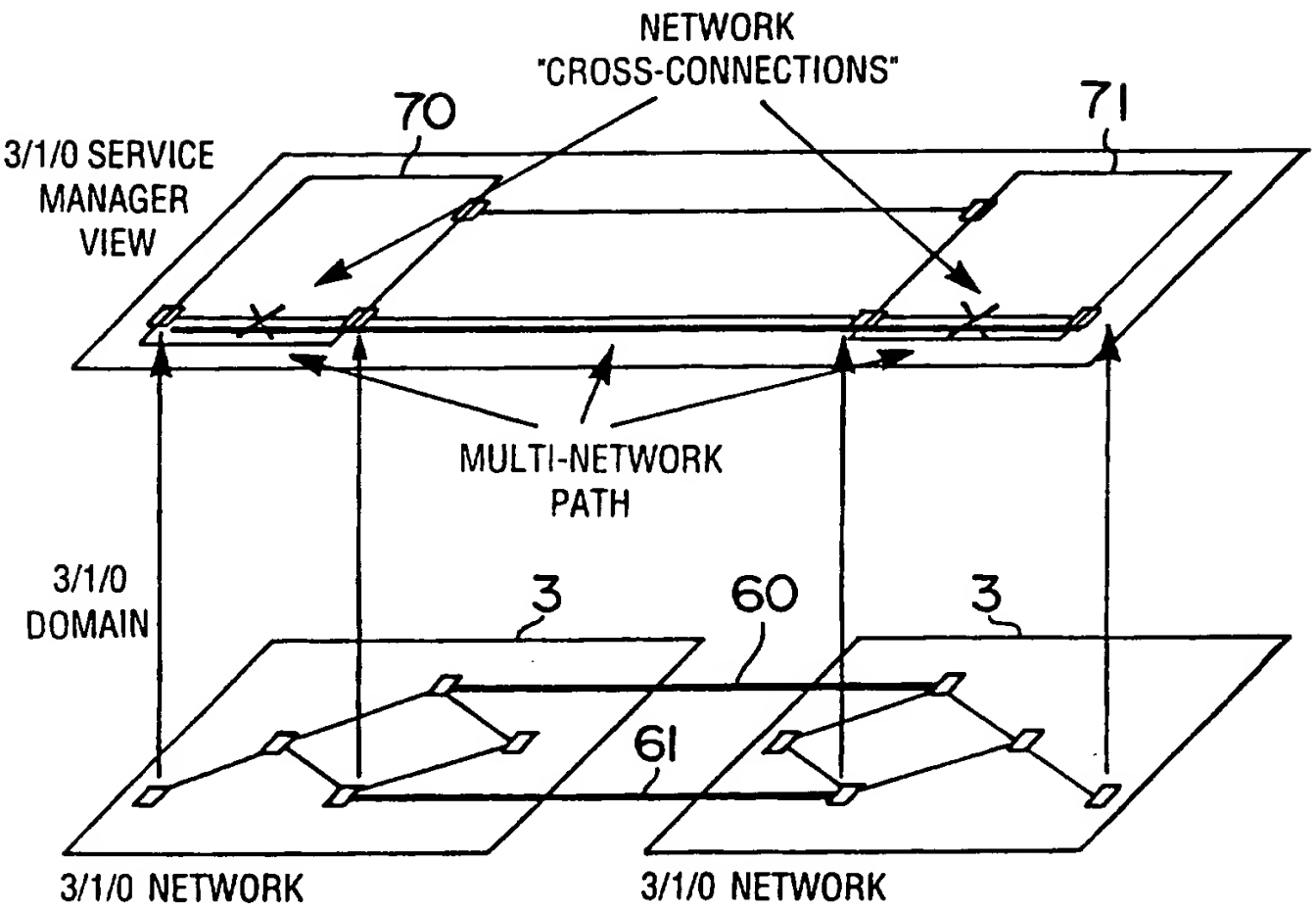
NETWORK
"CROSS-CONNECTIONS"
70
71
3/1/0 SERVICE
MANAGER
VIEW
MULTI-NETWORK
PATH
3/1/0
DOMAIN
3
60
3
61
3/1/0 NETWORK
3/1/0 NETWORK

FIG.11

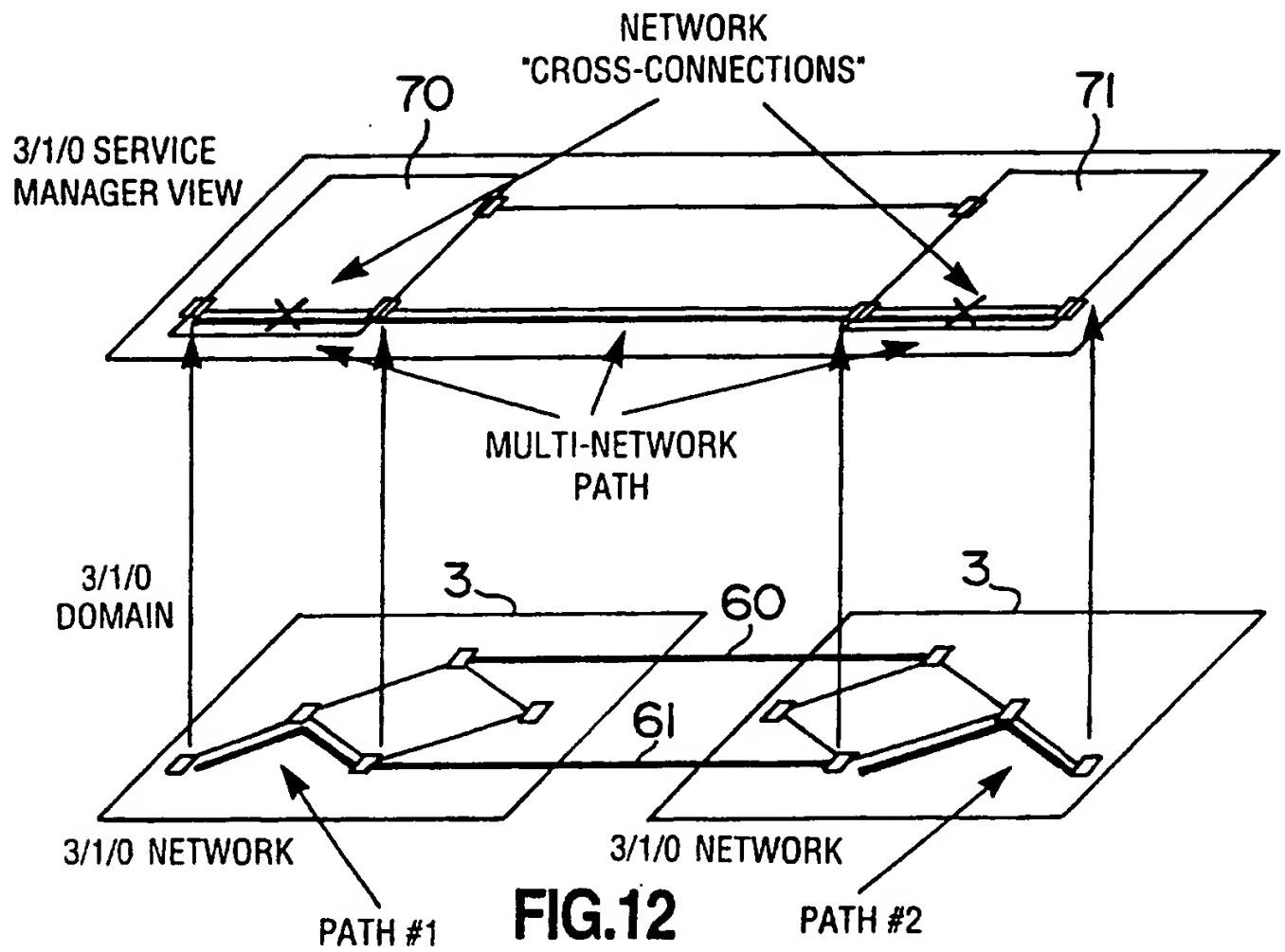
NETWORK
"CROSS-CONNECTIONS"
70
71
3/1/0 SERVICE
MANAGER VIEW
MULTI-NETWORK
PATH
3/1/0
DOMAIN
3
60
3
61
3/1/0 NETWORK
3/1/0 NETWORK
PATH #1
PATH #2

FIG.12

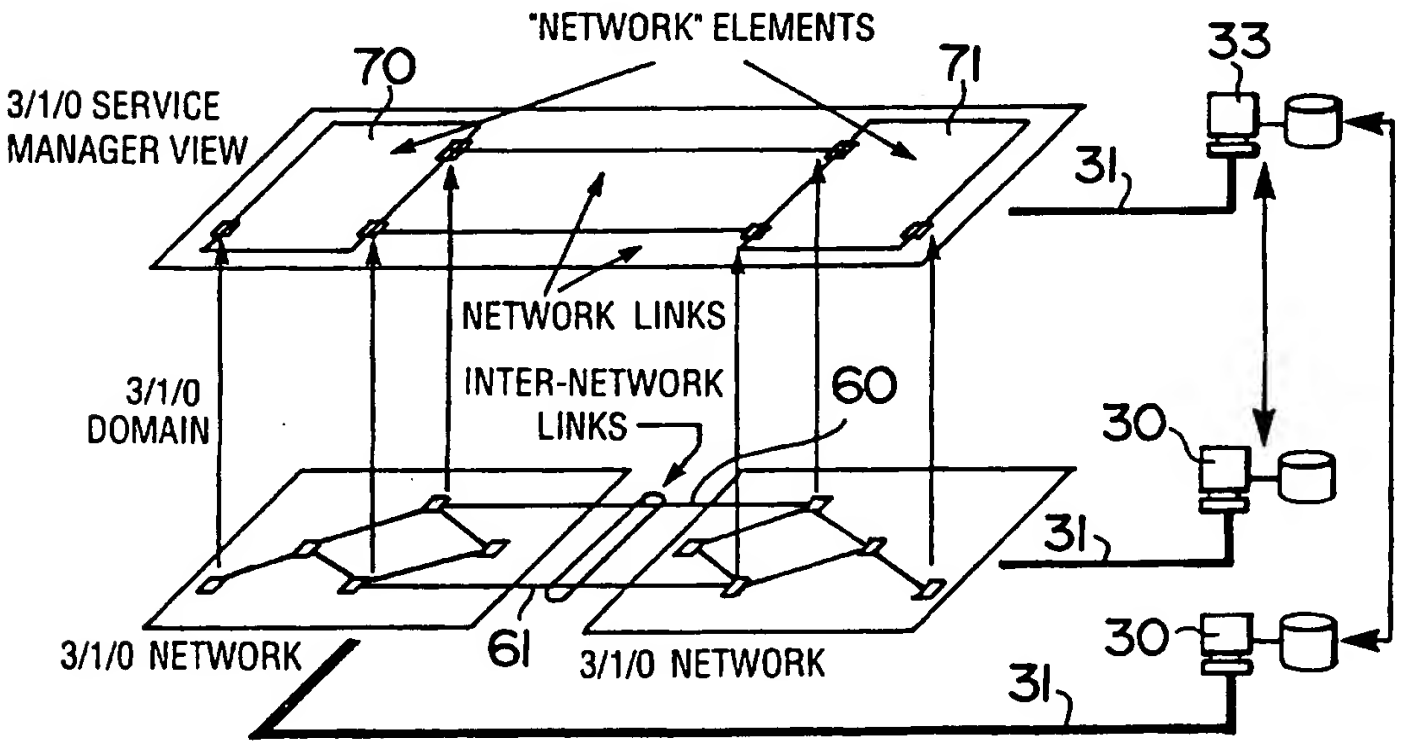
"NETWORK" ELEMENTS
70
71
33
3/1/0 SERVICE
MANAGER VIEW
31
NETWORK LINKS
INTER-NETWORK
LINKS
60
3/1/0
DOMAIN
30
31
61
3/1/0 NETWORK
3/1/0 NETWORK
30
31

FIG.13

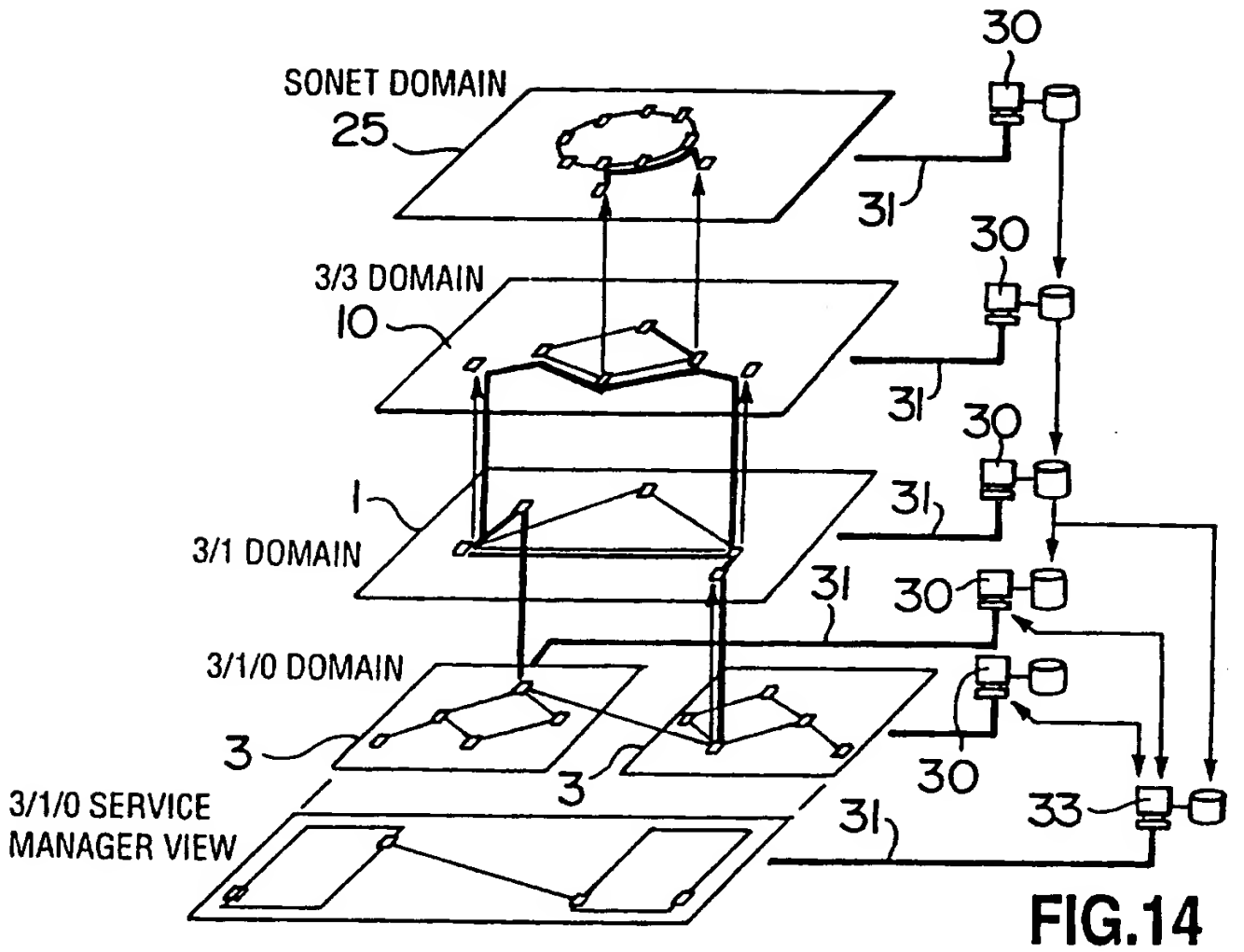
SONET DOMAIN
25
3/3 DOMAIN
10
1
3/1 DOMAIN
3/1/0 DOMAIN
3
3/1/0 SERVICE
MANAGER VIEW
30
31
33

FIG.14

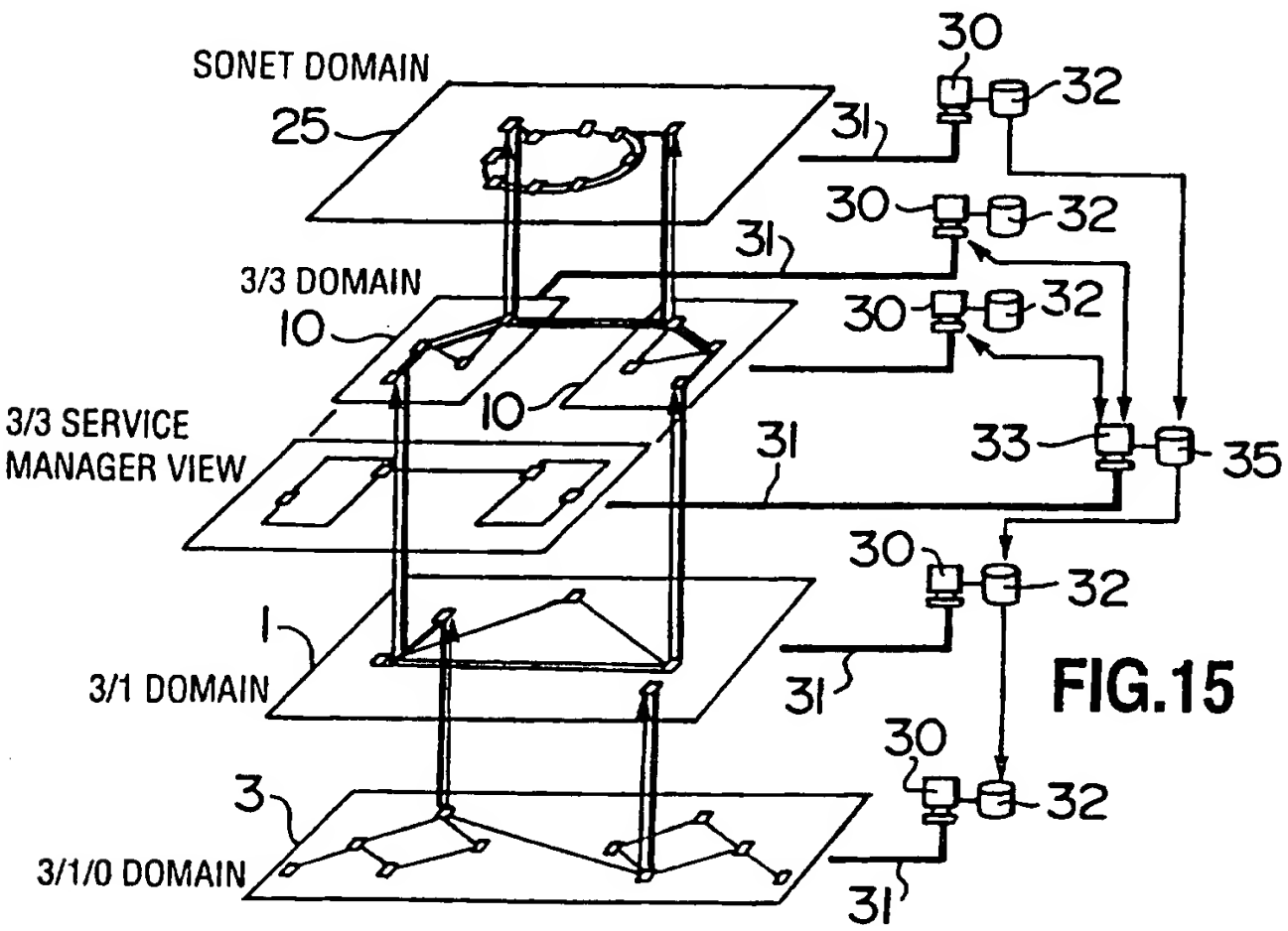
SONET DOMAIN
25
3/3 DOMAIN
10
3/3 SERVICE
MANAGER VIEW
1
3/1 DOMAIN
3
3/1/0 DOMAIN
30
31
32
33
35

FIG.15

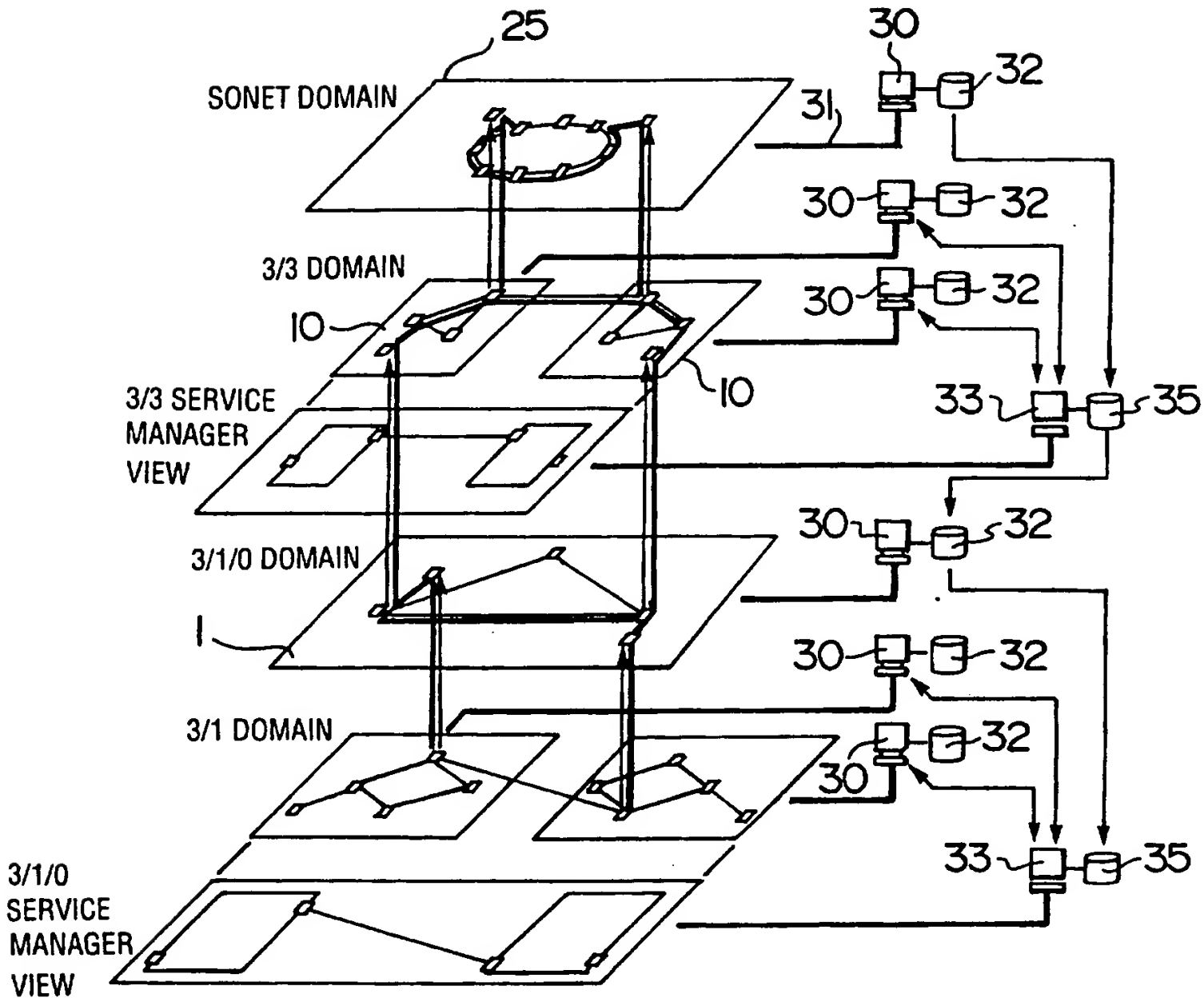
25
SONET DOMAIN
3/3 DOMAIN
10
10
3/3 SERVICE MANAGER VIEW
3/1/0 DOMAIN
1
3/1 DOMAIN
3/1/0 SERVICE MANAGER VIEW
30
31
32
33
35

FIG.16

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern ial Application No
PCT/CA 95/00522

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 H04L12/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 H04L H04J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	IEEE COMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE, vol. 31, no. 9, September 1993 US, pages 52-55, XP 000394870 S. ALLMIS 'IMPLEMENTING A FLEXIBLE SYNCHRONOUS NETWORK' see the whole document ---	1,8
A	PROCEEDINGS OF THE GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE (GLOBECOM), HOUSTON, NOV. 29 - DEC. 2, 1993, vol. 2 OF 4, 29 November 1993 INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS, pages 888-892, XP 000427935 MOTOO NISHIHARA ET AL 'STM-ATM MIGRATION PLAN WITH BRIDGE FUNCTIONS' see page 889, left column, line 10 - line 23 --- -/--	1,8

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[ ] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
12 December 1995	22.12.95

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3016	Mikkelsen, C

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interr al Application No
PCT/CA 95/00522

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	HITACHI REVIEW, vol. 40, no. 3, 1 June 1991 pages 247-252, XP 000277447 HIROTAKA USUDA ET AL 'INTEGRATED NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM' see the whole document -----	1,8

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